

North Cumberland Fire District

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2006

Opening:

The regular meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District (NCFD) was called to order at

7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2006, by Chairman Edward LeBlanc.

Present: Absent:

Edward LeBlanc, Chairman John Aharonian

Paul Lindquist

Matthew Gannon

Robert Audette

Brian Campbell

Joseph Baglini

Others Present:

Rene Gendreau, Chief Martin Klara, Tax Collector

Daniel Hamel, Treasurer

Fay Dakake, Clerk

Chairman LeBlanc adjusted the agenda to address the issue of the

nomination of Joseph Baglini to the Board of Trustees. Chairman LeBlanc reviewed a letter from John Ahronian, chairperson of the nomination committee, nominating Joseph Baglini as a new attending member of the NCFD Board of Trustees. Mr. Baglini's résumé was summarized by Chairman LeBlanc.

A motion was made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to nominate Joseph Baglini to the NCFD Board of Trustees. All in favor. So voted.

A. Approval of Minutes

Chairman LeBlanc congratulated the Chief and firefighters for all they had done for the firefighter's appreciation dinner.

A motion was made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Campbell, to approve the Clerk's Report, with corrections, of January 18, 2006. All in favor. So voted.

B. Treasurer's Report

Chairman LeBlanc noted that the Treasurer's Report and the Tax

Collector's Report were just received by the Board and felt the Board would be unable to digest the information this evening. The Treasurer's Report contained the following:

- o Financial Summary, January, 2006**
- o Profit and Loss Statement, January, 2006**
- o Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2006**
- o Profit & Loss Prev. Year Comparison July, 2005 – January, 2006**
- o Tax Collections Comparison Chart, January, 2006**
- o Monthly Tax Collections Graph**

Treasurer Hamel reported that the current Profit & Loss vs. Actual were completed but not included in his report.

C. Tax Collector's Report

Although Tax Collector Martin Klara was not in attendance, he submitted his report for review. Chief Gendreau reported that Tax Collector Klara is actively working on the discrepancy in the total taxes due, as noted last month, and that the figures are getting closer together. He also reported that, through Mr. Klara, OPAL had suggested Jeff Wadovick, CPA. Mr. Wadovick has worked with the Charlestown Fire Department to set up OPAL and works as a paid consultant. Chairman LeBlanc asked that Mr. Klara further investigate the type of work Mr. Wadovick has done auditing accounts for fire departments, to see if it would be something NCFD would consider.

A motion was made by Mr. Baglini, seconded by Mr. Lindquist, to postpone the vote of the reports of the Treasurer and the Tax Collector until the next meeting. All in favor. So voted.

Treasurer Hamel left the meeting.

D. Chief's Report and Monthly Expenditures

Chief Gendreau submitted a Monthly Report for January, 2006, and an Expenditures Report dated February 16, 2006.

Chief Gendreau highlighted

 NCFD personnel trained in the use of new Rapid Intervention Team equipment.

 NCFD personnel installing new hydrant markers.

 Main bathroom dividers constructed and installed by Cpt. Delisle and Pvt's O'Neil and Paquin.

 Christmas lights have been taken down.

Chairman LeBlanc questioned the following:

Expenses

#6130

Pete's Lawn & Landscaping (snow plowing) \$240.00

It was clarified that this expense was snow removal for 3 storms.

Chairman LeBlanc asked the Chief if new gloves had been purchased for the firefighters. Chief Gendreau stated the gloves were currently out of stock but samples in 3 sizes would be sent when available.

A motion was made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette, to accept the Chief's Report and the Monthly Expenditures. All in favor. So voted.

E. Committee Reports

Financial Management, Budget, Taxes

No comment.

Personnel, Labor Relations

Mr. Lindquist, Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, stated he has an item for Executive Session. Chief Gendreau congratulated Mr. Linquist and Lt. Emerson for the outstanding job they did during the recent oral interviews.

Labor Management Committee

Mr. Campbell distributed copies of the Labor Management Committee Charter. He reviewed the purpose of the Committee. He reported that he and Mr. Audette had met with Mark, Lt. Emerson and Captain Delisle of NCFD. He stated the theme of the meeting was problem solving and improving morale. Items discussed were:

a. Sick time for probationary employees. The Department expressed its concern for probationary employees coming to work sick due to the absence of sick time during their first year. They proposed that a Memorandum of Agreement be drawn to allow the probationary employee to receive five hours of sick time per month during the first twelve months of employment. This sick time would be deducted from the total owed to the new hiree at the end of the probationary period. With no urgency to vote this evening, the Board decided to wait until the Union accepted the agreement and then have Attorney Al West review it.

b. Notification of Awards. The NCFD would like more advance notice when receiving awards to enable family members and those interested to attend. They would like more publicity in the newspapers. They suggested plaques as opposed to the paper awards they are currently receiving. The Board noted that they could do a better job on the awards process.

c. Notification of the Passing of Family Members. The committee is looking for consistency in the notification and sending of gifts in the event of death of a family member.

Nominations

See “Opening”, p.1

Buildings, Grounds, Apparatus, Computer

The Chief commented that the building and grounds look the best he has ever seen.

The Chief reported that the Cumberland Hill Fire District had recently purchased and demonstrated a new touch screen lap top computer which enables them to have instant access to maps and hazardous material on site information. He suggested that the Board consider purchasing the same for NCFD utilizing funds in the Smoke Detector Account. He estimated the cost of the system and software at \$4500. - \$5000.

Chairman LeBlanc asked the Chief to extend an invitation to the Cumberland Hill Fire District to attend the next meeting and demonstrate this system to educate the Board. The Chief agreed.

Public attendee Gary Grenier asked if all four fire districts in town had ever considered purchasing the fire module of the INS system that is currently used for dispatch only at the police department. It seemed they hadn't.

Insurance

Chief Gendreau supplied the Board with a summary of the cost of renewing VFIS/SNE insurance. This insurance covers

Commercial Excess (Property Coverage)

Vehicle Insurance

Package (Liability and Property Damage)

The average increase was 11%. The Board showed concern over this significant increase and asked the Chief to invite Judi Parman of VFIS

to attend the next meeting to explain the increase and possible ways to lower the cost. The Chief agreed.

Public Relations

No comment.

F. Old Business

Tax Collection Policy

Chief Gendreau reported that he had faxed a copy of the drafted tax collection policy to Attorney Al West. Attorney West recommended that the Board not have a tax collection policy but to simply follow state law. Chairman LeBlanc stated that the Tax Collector had asked for a policy/guideline and the Chairman believes he should have one.

He will contact Attorney West.

Fire District Consolidation

No updates at this time.

Mr. Lindquist asked if a consolidation with Cumberland Hill should be considered. Mr. Lindquist agreed to contact Marcel Bacon of Cumberland Hill Fire District to determine if consolidation is something that would still interest them.

G. New Business

Chairman Leblanc distributed new committee assignments to include new trustee Joseph Baglini. He also passed out business goals that were worked on over the year. He reviewed the goals

H. Public Comment

No comment.

Executive Session

Motion is made by Mr. Lindquist, seconded by Mr. Gannon, to enter into Executive Session in accordance with Rhode Island Law 42-46-5 (1), to discuss the appointment of a new hire to the NCFD. All in favor. So voted.

Return to Public Meeting

Motion is made by Mr. Lindquist to hire Gary P. Grenier as fire fighter, seconded by Mr. Gannon. All in favor. So voted.

Motion is made by Mr. Gannon, seconded by Mr. Lindquist to terminate Thomas Heaney, Jr., contingent upon review of the situation by Al West. All in favor. So voted.

Adjournment

Motion is made by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mr. Audette, to adjourn

the meeting of the North Cumberland Fire District at 8:20pm. All in favor. So voted.

Minutes submitted by: Fay Dakake, Clerk _____

Approved by: Edward LeBlanc _____
Chairman